

# The Hongkong Telegraph

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## ACUTE TENSION IN TEHERAN

### "Dark Forces At Work: On Verge Of Revolution"

#### COMMENT

The steady "limited objective offensive" that has brought Seoul and the mountain citadel of Hongchun again into the hands of United Nations forces has been so outstandingly effective that the British belief that the compulsory retreat of the Chinese Communist armies to the 38th Parallel could be the prelude to negotiations for a peaceful settlement may prove to have substance.

There have been no spectacular victories or stunning surprises. There has been, however, a consistent demonstration that the United Nations troops have adapted themselves brilliantly to the terrain, are in high morale, and are inflicting seriously heavy casualties on an enemy by shatteringly superior fire power and unchallenged command of the air.

In announcing the first massive Chinese intervention in Korea, General MacArthur stated that an entirely new situation had been created. It was, in effect, a new war. This proved to be an accurate appraisal and the different situation has called for different tactics on the part of the Eighth Army.

To meet the new threat it was necessary first to effect a withdrawal and re-grouping to reduce positions vulnerable to overwhelming disparity in numbers. Once stability was achieved, it was possible once more to go forward, compensating for manpower by firepower and the strategic advantages of sea and air control.

General Ridgway's offensive is, therefore, limited in the sense that it does not seek in one dash the liberation of the whole of Korea. Its major and proper purpose is to convince the Chinese Communists, by a mounting total of casualties, that their intervention was ill-advised. A satisfactory solution by this means cannot be particularly easy. Too much "face" is involved. The 38th Parallel, however, could provide the clue. Peking should already be satisfied that its aggressive intervention can pay no dividends, should be looking for the easy way out.

#### Schuman Still Thinks Soviet Wants Peace Talk

Paris, Mar. 18.  
The French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, said here tonight that the Soviet Union wanted a meeting of the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers to talk peace.

M. Schuman, who was addressing the National Executive of the Popular Republican Movement, said that no one wanted to be responsible for a breach between the big powers.

The Russians wanted the Foreign Ministers to meet, although they seemed to be, above all, preoccupied with the propaganda results that they would be able to gain.—Reuter.

#### WOMAN TEC BREAKS UP DOPE GANG

New York, Mar. 18.

An attractive young woman detective led a series of weekend raids by narcotic squad officers here in an effort to break up what they called "the most vicious dope peddling" operating among teenagers in the city.

The raids resulted in the arrest of six men and two women.

Three thousand dollars' worth of heroin was seized. The police said that the young woman, Miss McDonnell, had "arranged" to meet one of the members of the ring, a man named Suarez. Suarez arrived in a glittering maroon car.

Watched by detectives across the street, Miss McDonnell handed Suarez \$62. He then handed over 150 capsules of heroin. The woman detective then showed her badge and whipped out a pistol but Suarez tried to run her down. She dodged his car as her colleagues drove across the street and rammed their police car in front of Suarez's car.

Later the detectives found 150 heroin capsules in a house. A woman was arrested.

In another raid, a "tough guy" threw several punches at Miss McDonnell before being subdued by her colleagues.

The raids and arrests continued until dawn, by which time Miss McDonnell was "a bit concerned about a few wrinkles under her eyes."—Reuter.

#### TRAIN SMASH

Cordoba, Argentina, Mar. 18.

Four women—one an expectant mother—were dead as the result of the derailment this morning of a passenger train running toward Cordoba through the hills of this Argentine province.

The accident also left 40 persons seriously injured and some 70 with minor injuries. The accident occurred when the engine took a curve at high speed.—United Press.

## Deputy Discloses That Army And Police Remain Unpaid

Teheran, Mar. 18.

The country was on the verge of a revolution within 24 hours of the Persian Senate's expected decision to nationalise the oil industry, a deputy told Reuter.

The Majlis (Lower House) could not meet the critical financial situation, in which Government departments could not pay their employees. Attempts to form a new Government following the assassination of General Ali Razmara had broken down and the late Prime Minister's Bill to increase the note issue had still not been adopted by Parliament.

The deputy told Reuter that this month's wages, including those of the Army and the Gendarmerie, were still unpaid.

Dark forces were at work, fanned by the obstructionist Nationalist Front Opposition and directed by the fanatical Fadayian Islam sect, he added.

The man who shot Razmara last week belonged to this sect, which had opposed the general's plan to ratify a supplementary oil agreement with the British-controlled Anglo-Iranian Oil Company which would have increased Persia's royalties.

It was believed here today that the company had agreed to demand arbitration if the Persian Government carry through the nationalisation measure.

Western diplomatic sources said that the decision would cause violent political and economic storms. It was possible that the Shah might take over absolute powers into his own hands, they added.

This week Britain told Persia that she could not legally terminate the present agreement—due to run until 1953—"by an act such as nationalisation."—Reuter.

#### CABINET ISSUE

London, Mar. 18.

Persia's proposal to nationalise the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company interests in the country will be considered by the Cabinet this week, informed quarters said here today.

In the meantime, the British Government will discuss the situation with Persia through diplomatic channels.

No action has been taken since the Persian Parliament (Majlis) approved the proposal last Thursday, although a diplomatic note was sent to Teheran on the eve of the Majlis' vote, saying that the British Government would regard such a move as illegal.

A Foreign Office spokesman today denied a London newspaper report that the Foreign (Continued on Page 8 Col. 3)

## Churchill Planning "National" Cabinet On Regaining Power

London, Mar. 18.

Mr Winston Churchill would form a Conservative Government based, as far as possible, on "national" lines if his Party regained power in an early general election, political circles here predicted tonight.

But quarters close to Mr Churchill made it clear that he was not visualising a coalition with the Socialists when he called for a "broad-based Government" in a political broadcast last night.

They said that what he had in mind was a Conservative administration taking in "men of goodwill" drawn possibly from industry, the Liberal Party and even individual Labour figures, though they could not imagine any leading figure of the present Government taking part in it.

Mr Churchill's wartime Coalition had a "national" character, but that Cabinet, though predominately Conservative, had a large official

representation of the Labour Party, including Mr Clement Attlee, the present Prime Minister, as Mr Churchill's deputy.

Mr Churchill, in his broadcast, gave formal endorsement to the cold war being waged in the House of Commons by the Conservatives against the Labour Government.

He declared that his Party would do its utmost to hasten a general election. This means that the Opposition will conduct an incessant battle by means of snap votes and obstruction tactics and all-night debates to wear the Government down.—Reuter.

## LIE KEEN TO TRY AGAIN

Lake Success, Mar. 18.

Mr Trygve Lie, the United Nations Secretary-General, is sounding Western delegations in the United Nations on a cease-fire in Korea without involving other Far Eastern problems, it was learned here today.

It was understood that Mr Lie was basing his approach on the assumption that the Chinese Communists, having suffered heavy casualties and a loss of prestige in their five-month-old intervention, might be ready to accept a truce.

Peking had rejected similar approaches in the past, conditioning any cease-fire to United Nations membership, withdrawal of the United States Seventh Fleet from the Formosa Straits and a seven-nation political conference on other Far Eastern issues.

Mr Lie is said to have talked about the idea with the United States, British and French representatives and with the three members of the still-stalled United Nations Committee of Good Offices.—Reuter.

## Discarded Girl Carries Out Threat

Paris, Mar. 18.

A friend of Felix Bailly, the ice hockey star and medical student here, turned up an hour late to "protect" him from a spurned lover who had sworn to kill—and found that the girl had got there first and had shot Bailly dead.

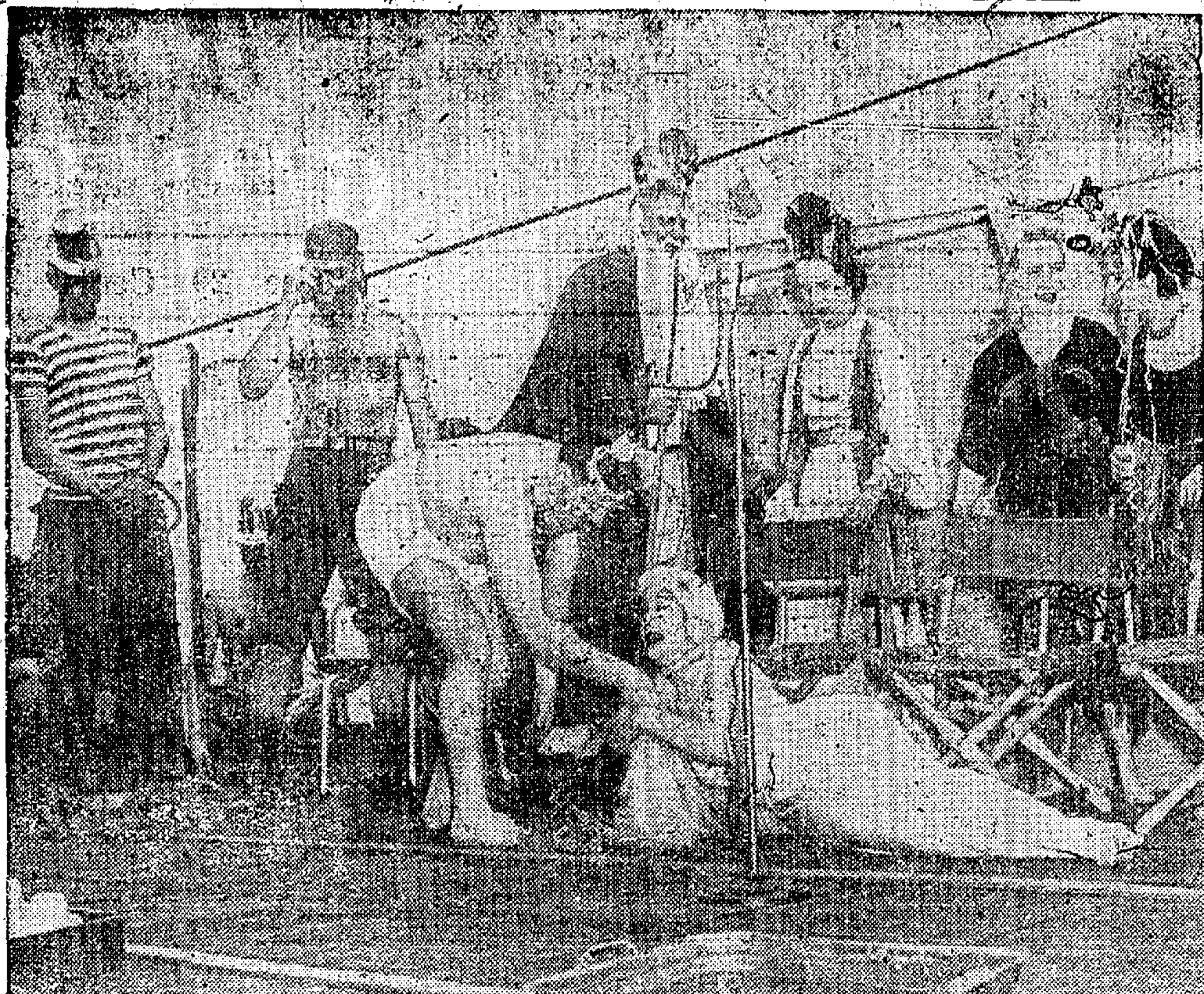
The girl, Pauline Dubuisson, aged 25, was unconscious by the gas stove.

Pauline, a slim brunette, got a pistol when she heard that Bailly had bought an engagement ring for a blonde, Monique. Pauline had been his mistress for two years.

Bailly spent his last three days escorted by a male friend because he had been warned by telephone that Pauline had when she turned it on herself sworn to kill him. Pauline told the police that her gun jammed after shooting Bailly. She then tried to gas herself in Bailly's room, which was full of photographs of other women.—Reuter.



## NEWCOMERS FOR NEPTUNE



This ancient and honourable ceremony marks King Neptune's initiation of seafarers as they pass across the 180th Meridian (the International Date Line). Officers and passengers took part in the traditional rites on board this liner in the Pacific.

## Dispute Over Deportation Of Frank Costello Likely To Be Sought

Pondicherry, Mar. 18.

Three observers nominated by the Vice-President of the International Court of Justice at The Hague are due here this month on a fact-finding mission to French settlements in India.

The observers include Mr. Holger Andersen, of Denmark, and Dr. Rudolfo Castro, of El Salvador, who supervised a plebiscite in June, 1949, in the three-mile square settlement of Chandernagore, near Calcutta. It was later transferred to Indian rule after a 90 per cent vote in favour.

France and India have been unable to agree on the method of a referendum to decide the future status of the four remaining territories—Pondicherry, Karikal, Yanam and Mahe. They cover an area of about 190 square miles in all. A plebiscite arranged for December, 1949, was postponed because of Franco-Indian differences.—Reuter.

## Frank Costello Likely To Be Sought

Washington, Mar. 18.

It was learned today that the Senate Crime Committee had unanimously agreed to seek the deportation of Frank Costello, reputed underworld overlord.

The Committee will ask the Federal authorities to study the record of its hearing in New York last week with a view to revoking Costello's naturalisation and sending him back to his native Italy.

The action was taken at a closed session in Washington yesterday. The new move against Costello was revealed as the Crime Committee prepared to return to New York for more hearings.

The Committee chairman, Senator Estes Kefauver, said the former Mayor of New York, Mr. William O'Dwyer, now United States Ambassador to Mexico, would volunteer some information "of value" on Monday. The

Committee expects to recall Costello before hearings are concluded.

As a result of three appearances last week, Costello found himself facing:

1. Loss of his citizenship and deportation.
2. Possibility of perjury charges.
3. Contempt of Congress proceedings.

Those three legal steps could result in fines, prison terms and exile, which is regarded by underworld leaders as one of the worst sentences of all.

### ALIAS CONCEALED

The Committee agreed to base its request to the naturalisation authorities on a possible misstatement in Costello's application for naturalisation papers. According to his own testimony, Costello did not include in that application his alias of "Frank Severio," the name under which, he conceded, he was once convicted for possession of a revolver.

Senator Charles Tobey also remarked during the hearing that Costello's admission that he was engaged in bootlegging was evidence that he was involved in a "conspiracy" to break the law, which might make him liable to be deported.—United Press.

### Best Wishes From Stalin

London, Mar. 18.

Marshal Stalin has sent a telegram to the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, M. Valko Chervenkov, offering warm greetings and best wishes on the third anniversary of the signing of the friendship pact between their two countries. Sofia Radio reported tonight.—Reuter.

## ISTIQLAL PARTY STIRRING UP OIL TROUBLE IN IRAQ

Bagdad, Mar. 18.

The Prime Minister, Nuri es Said, was asked today by the deputy leader of the Iraqi Istiqlal (Nationalist) Party, in view of the "courageous step" taken by Persia, whether the Iraqi Government was thinking of nationalising internationally owned Iraqi oil industry.

It became known today that the production of the main Iraqi oilfields at Jiraur had almost doubled in a year from 3,671,000 tons to 6,058,000 tons in 1950.

In his approach on the nationalisation issue, Sidiq Shanshal, the deputy leader, urged that foreign oil companies should stop "robbing Iraqis."

Two independent newspapers, Al Akhbar and Al Hawadith, said today they understood authoritatively that Nuri es Said would shortly visit London.

The Istiqlal organ, Alyadab, commenting on oil nationalisation in Persia, said, "We are sure Britain will in the end accept a fait accompli" and asked if other Middle East nations would learn from Persia.

Sidiq Shanshal requested a reply in Parliament from the Prime Minister.

Oil concessions in Iraq are held by the Iraq Petroleum Company in which Dutch, French, British and American groups hold almost all the interest in equal parts and by the Dasrah Petroleum Company.

### 75-YEAR CONCESSIONS

Both have 75-year concessions, the first dating from March, 1925, the second from November, 1938.

The Iraq Petroleum Company built a 12-inch pipeline, with a capacity of 4,000,000 tons a year, from Kirkuk on the eastern arm of the Tigris to the Mediterranean coast with terminals at Haifa in Israel and at Tripoli in Syria. It was opened in 1935.

A 16-inch pipeline from Kirkuk to Tripoli started operating early last year. The construction of a similar line to Haifa began in 1946.

The building of Iraq's first Government-owned refinery was announced early this year.—Reuter.

## ALBANIAN CRISIS RUMOURS

London, Mar. 18.

British official quarters have no information confirming London Press reports of a proclamation of a state of emergency in Albania, it was authoritatively stated here today.

According to the reports, the proclamation came after the discovery of a "well-organised plot to overthrow the Communist regime."

They said that a bomb had exploded in the local Russian Embassy, killing several members of the diplomatic staff.

Britain has no diplomatic relations with Albania, but a French Minister there keeps her informed about conditions in the country.

It is understood that no reports of the plot or the bomb incident have been passed to London through the French authorities.

While the possibility of anti-State activities in Albania is certainly not ruled out by observers here, it would be surprising if no reports of loss of life in the Russian Embassy had reached official quarters in London after a lapse of some weeks.—Reuter.

## Peking's First Admission

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

Communist Peking Radio today made its first acknowledgment of the Red retreat from Seoul, declaring that the "temporary withdrawal took place in splendid order."

The broadcast from the capital of Communist China said the Reds left Seoul with a pledge to "come back soon." It said that "calm and order reigned over the city before the withdrawal."

The Radio said "the Reds kept up the supply of munitions to fighters at the firing lines and cars and vehicles maintained troops transportation through the streets."

It said the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers covered the withdrawal by bombarding the United Nations troops across the Han River, and by midnight "all citizens who refused to remain under enemy occupation had left the city."—United Press.

## More Claims By Taipei

Taipei, Mar. 18.

The Nationalist Military Information Service, official organ of the Defence Ministry, announced tonight that guerillas operating in the Kwangtung-Kwangsi area are controlling a vast area and forcing the Chinese Red garrisons to stay within seven walled cities.

The Service identified the cities as Siwei, Koyui, Taching, Kaichien, Kwongning, Waichek, and Toching, all in west Kwangtung. It said the outnumbered Chinese Communist garrisons, about two regiments, dared not leave the cities for five miles.

It added that the guerillas are actively supported by the people and are increasing in number. Unofficial estimates put the number of guerillas in the Kwangtung-Kwangsi area at 300,000.—United Press.

## Back To Normal In Berlin

Berlin, Mar. 18.

The United States military transport service between Berlin and West Germany returned to normal today following yesterday's Soviet curtailment of Western trains.

An Army rail official said two American morning trains from Bremerhaven and Frankfurt arrived here on schedule, while the night trains to Bremerhaven and Frankfurt were expected on schedule and no interference anticipated.—United Press.

## Thief Foiled By Accident

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

The driver of a truck which collided with an electric train in Kawasaki City disappeared without trace immediately after the accident.

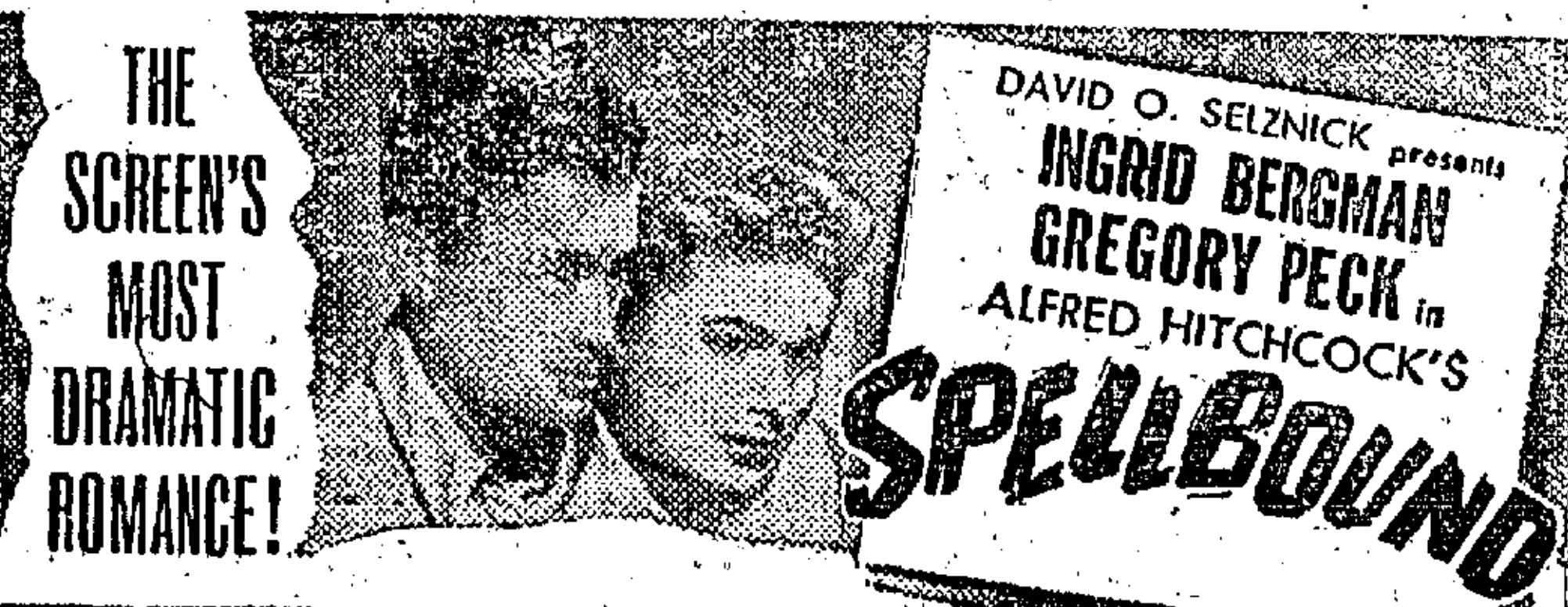
Fresh blood around the driver's seat indicated that the driver was injured. The police believe that the truck was driven by a thief, who had stolen it.—Reuter.

## KING'S LIBERTY

FINAL SHOWS TO-DAY

At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20  
& 9.30 P.M.

At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30  
& 9.30 P.M.



TO-MORROW AT THE KING'S





# WEST MAY SEEK A SHOWDOWN

## Patience Of Britain, U.S. And France Begins To Wear Thin

### Thirteenth Meeting Of The Deputies Begins Today

Paris, Mar. 18.

It was learned today that the three Western powers may call for a showdown with Russia before starting on plans for the new Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting.

The patience of the United States, Britain and France is beginning to wear thin after two weeks of futile efforts to agree with Russia on a list of subjects for the Foreign Ministers to discuss.

The conference of the four powers here is almost hopelessly deadlocked and for two days the Soviet delegate, Mr Andrei Gromyko, has been monopolising sessions with propaganda attacks on the West.

## YUGOSLAVS READY TO RESIST

Washington, Mar. 18.

The American Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Mr George Allen, said today that Yugoslavia would fight fiercely against any aggressive attack. He said the Yugoslav people were "not jittery" in spite of the immediate danger they face from Communist Russia.

"The Yugoslavians will fight no matter who the attacker might be or in what form the attack comes."

Mr Allen spoke on a sound film shown on the National Broadcasting Company's television programme "Battle Report". The film was made in Yugoslavia. He said there was no way of predicting whether Yugoslavia could throw back Russian and Russian satellite troops massed on her borders should they attack.

"One thing seems certain—anyone who undertakes to challenge this nation with arms will pay dearly for the offence," he said, "adding that there was no danger of a Munich-type settlement" in Yugoslavia. The Yugoslavians are very realistic people and today we find them quietly courageous and astonishingly determined." — United Press.

## Berlin Police On Qui Vive

Berlin, Mar. 18.

West Berlin police radio squad cars raced to two British sector railway stations this afternoon when squads of armed East Berlin people's police suddenly appeared on the platforms "to control home-going football crowds."

At least 12 East Berlin police, with pistols strapped round their waists, were at the Hohenzollerndamm Station and about the same number at Schmargendorf.

All railway stations in Berlin come under the control of the East Berlin Railway Administration and the people's police have the right to be on railway property.

But, this was the first time that they have appeared in such strength in Western sector railway stations. — Reuter.

## Claim Backed By British Jews

London, Mar. 18.

The British Board of Jewish Deputies today supported Israel's claim on Germany for reparations for the Jewish people. The Board passed a resolution saying that "whilst no reparation is possible for the countless Jewish lives lost in the Nazi terror, elementary justice demands that Germany should not be permitted to escape her responsibility for the rehabilitation of the survivors."

The resolution asks the British Government to consider Israel's claim favourably and recommend its acceptance by the other occupying powers. — Reuter.

The Western powers have announced that they made all the major concessions possible on the agenda. Russia has made only minor concessions and still insists that the Western plan to rearm Germany, if Germany is willing should dominate the Foreign Ministers' meeting.

The four deputies begin their third week of talks tomorrow (Monday) at the Rose-Marble Palace. It will be their thirteenth meeting. Whether there is to be another Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting should be decided within a few days.

Two weeks of argument here, between Mr Gromyko on one side and Dr Philip Jessup of the United States, M. Alexandre Parodi of France and Mr Ernest Davies of Britain on the other, have made only one thing quite clear—barring a very unexpected and unusual change in the Soviet attitude, another Foreign Ministers' meeting is virtually doomed in advance, like all its predecessors, to failure.

## GAP TOO GREAT

There has not been even the slightest sign of a chance of agreement on any subject. The gap between East and West is so great delegates have been mentioning it in their daily statements almost as though it were commonplace.

Before this meeting of the deputies, the United States was less interested in the prospects of another Big Four meeting than the other Western powers, but the British and French deputies often have taken a firmer stand in their replies to Mr Gromyko. It is safe to say now that they are closer to the original American attitude than they were two weeks ago.

Mr Gromyko wants the West to:

1. Stop or slow down plans to rearm Germany.
2. Stop or slow down Atlantic Pact rearmament plans.

He has ignored the Russians' own violations of agreements in Eastern Germany and tried through propaganda to place the entire blame for the world crisis on the West.

## RESPONSIBILITY

While the West is anxious to press Mr Gromyko for a showdown, it is not likely any Western power will take the initiative in breaking up the deputies' meetings. The French Foreign Minister, M. Schuman, made that plain in a speech at a political meeting of his party today. He said: "No one wants to take the responsibility for a rupture."

However, he added, "The Russians want it (the Big Four Foreign Ministers' meeting) to take place but they seem specially preoccupied with the propaganda effect that they can draw out of it." — United Press.

## Transfer Of Teeth In Prospect

New York, Mar. 18.

A Columbia University Scientific team disclosed tonight the successful transplantation of teeth from one animal to another.

The animals involved are cats and there is no assurance now whether the technique can be tried on human beings.

Dr Harry Shapiro, assistant professor of anatomy at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, said, "A great deal of additional work dealing with the exact manner in which these teeth become reestablished is necessary before the technique would be attempted with human beings."

Dr Shapiro, who is reporting work on cats in a research journal, said it "may or may not be possible to obtain these results with humans."

He explained that for successful transplant special precautions must be taken to insure that no injury occurs to extremely small tooth "buds." He said the "buds" are developing teeth. These are removed from jaw bones and subsequently "planted" in the jaw of another cat.

Dr Shapiro said that teeth also have been transplanted from one jaw to the other in the same animal. "These recent studies show that healthy developing teeth, transplanted without injury or infection, become established and continue development," Dr Shapiro said. He added that in most of the experimental cases developing permanent teeth have been removed from the lower jaws of young cats. He said the teeth having been transplanted continued to grow and reached the full size. — United Press.

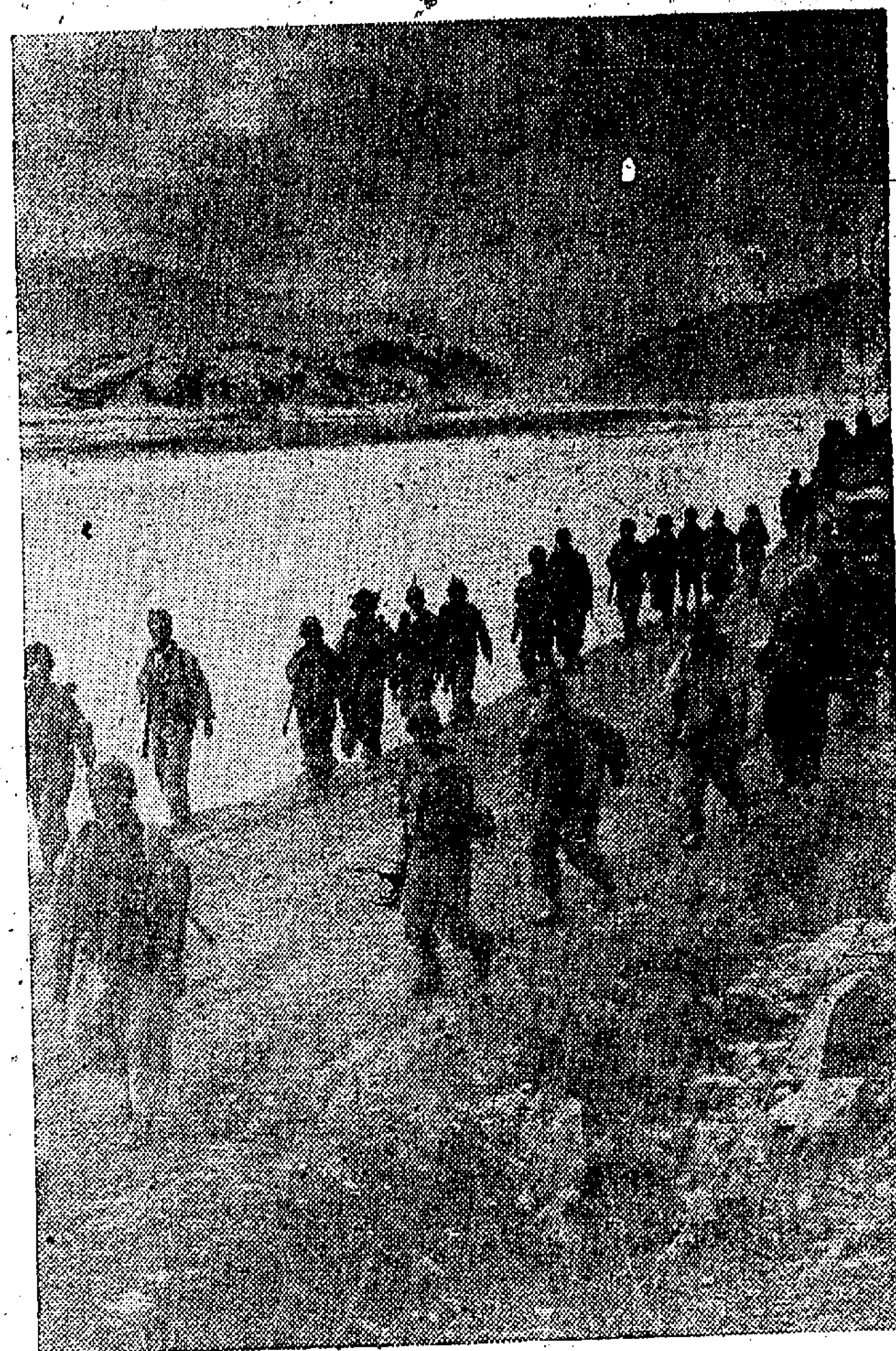
## THE LADY GOT CONFUSED

New York, Mar. 18.

The police guarded 84-year-old Mrs Cathryn Cunningham as she boarded a BOAC London bound plane today to make sure that she does not get confused again.

The tiny, grey-haired woman started for London on Friday night, but that plane was forced to return to Idlewild airfield later. Mrs Cunningham thought she was in London and left the airport for the city.

Airline employees put the police on trial when she failed to appear for a rescheduled flight. The police found her later last night. She went to England to visit her daughter, Mrs Harry Smith. — United Press.



HEADING FOR A REST—Tired ROK troops move slowly along a road in South Korea into the reserve area behind the battle lines for a well-earned rest. Their uniforms run the gamut from civilian clothing to padded winter equipment captured from the Chinese Communists.

## Christians Celebrate Holy Week

New York, Mar. 18.

Churches appealed throughout the world on this Palm Sunday calling their faithful to observe the entry of Christ into Jerusalem. On this, the beginning of Holy Week, millions of worshippers attended services in churches the altars of which were bedecked with the traditional palms.

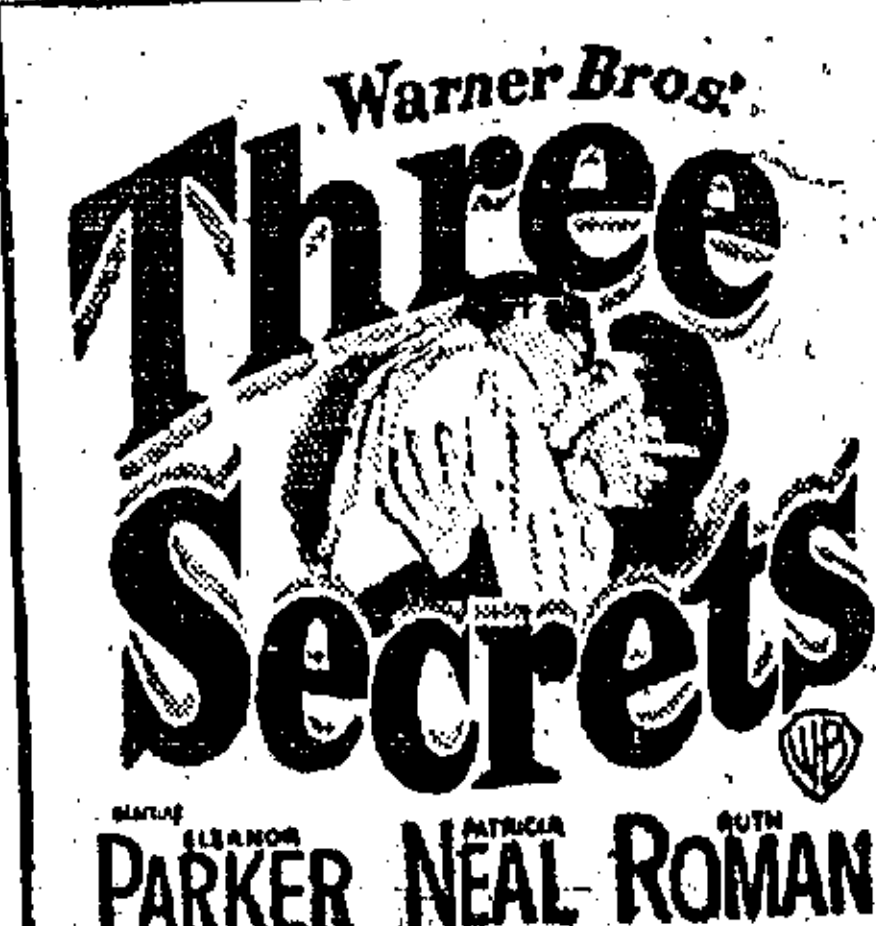
In the Vatican, a tremendous crowd of worshippers gathered in St Peter's basilica to pay homage to the Prince of Peace. However, in some of the 365 churches in Rome no palms were distributed. Instead, olive branches, symbols of peace, were given to those who attended the Mass.

Pope Pius XII spent the day in quiet meditation after officiating at a Mass in his private chapel.

In Jerusalem, Christians filed in procession into the Holy City.

## Queen's

— 3 SHOWS TO-DAY —  
At 2.30, 5.15 & 7.20 p.m.



— 9.30 P.M. ONLY —  
SNEAK PREVIEW

from the Mount of Olives. By special agreement, pilgrims were permitted to cross the Jewish and Arab boundary lines in their religious march. — United Press.

## ROXY

To-day at 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

2ND BIG WEEK!

A MASTERPIECE NEVER SEEN BEFORE IN THE MOVIE HISTORY! YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS!

## HALLS OF MONTEZUMA

TECHNICOLOR  
starring RICHARD WIDMARK



HISTORY'S FINEST HOUR IN HEROISM!!

NEXT CHANGE

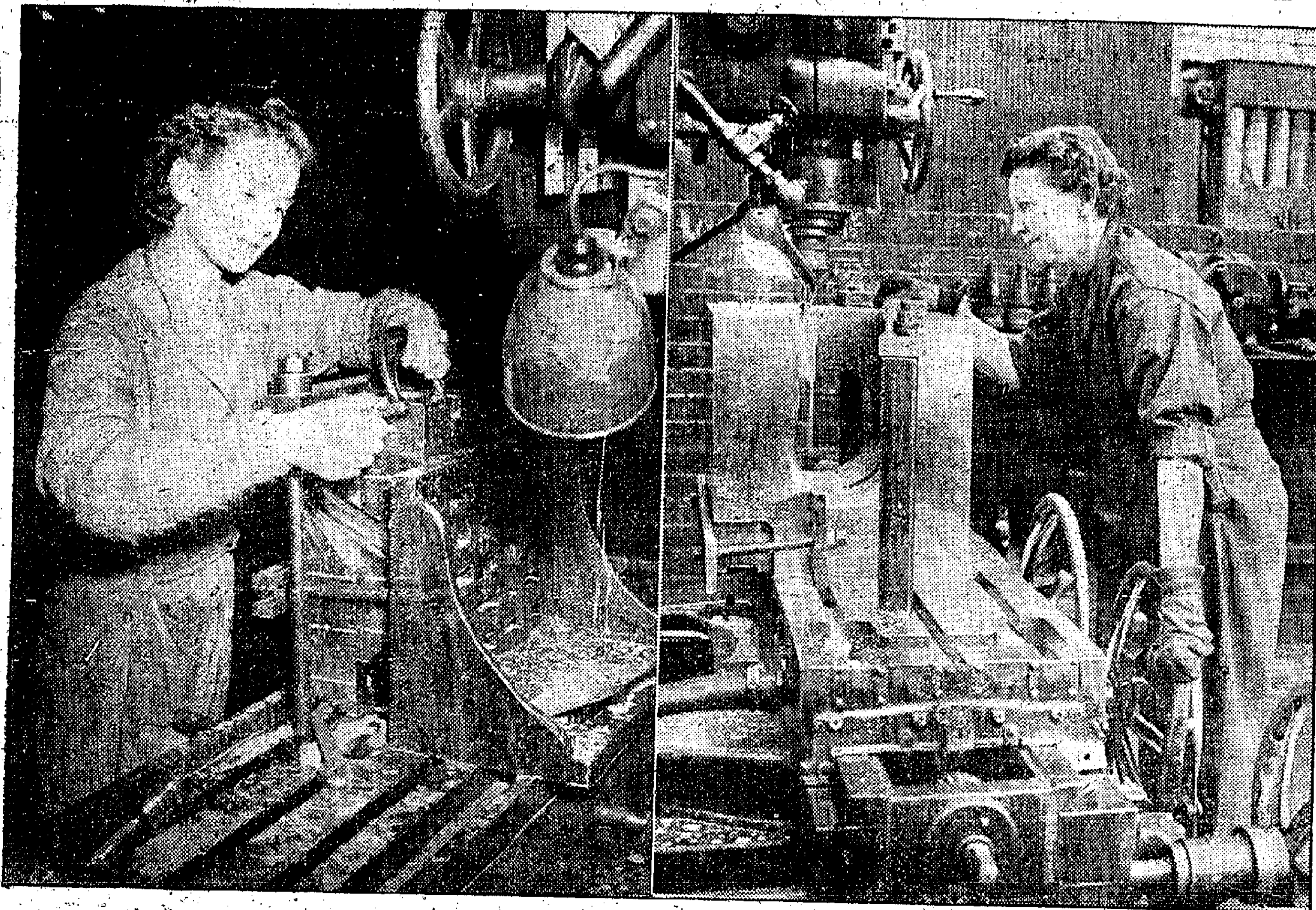
BY POPULAR REQUEST  
Linda DARNELL — Cornel WILDE

in "FOREVER AMBER"

IN TECHNICOLOR  
A 20th Century-Fox Picture



## Women Make Guns For Royal Armoured Corps



Women are playing a large part in Britain's armament factories today, as they did in the last war. The two pictures above, taken in a Royal Ordnance factory "somewhere in Britain," show two women working on breech-blocks for 20-pounder guns which will be installed in Britain's best tank, the Centurion.—Central Press Photos.

## BRITISH BRIGADE CEREMONY

With the British 27th Brigade, Mar. 18. The Commander of the Commonwealth Brigade, Brigadier Basil Coad, today presented medal ribbons to men of the Middlesex and Argyll battalions who won British and American decorations in the Korean war.

The Brigadier made the presentation at a composite parade of the two battalions at Brigade Headquarters in a paddy field alongside a river in the Brigade's area behind the lines.

He stood in front of a United Nations flag, the Brigade colours and the colours of the Middlesex and Argylls.

A church parade preceded the presentation ceremony. Afterwards the parade marched off to the Argylls' band, passing the Brigadier, who took the salute of his battalions.

It was the first ceremonial parade that this Brigade has held in Korea.

The awards were:

British Military Cross: Second Lieutenant C.A. Lawrence (Middlesex) of Christchurch, Hants; Military Medal: W.O. 2 T.J.R. Collett (Argylls) of 6 Williams Street, York; and Corporal R.R. Sweeney (Argylls) of West Calder, Midlothian.

Mentioned in Despatches: Private J. Smith (Argylls) of Silvertown, Dumfriesshire; Sergeant R. Smith (Middlesex), of Finsbury Park, London; Private R. Wright (Argylls) of Glasgow, and Drummer G.E.F. Matthews (Middlesex) of Faversham, Kent.—Reuter.

## Barcelona Gets New Governor

Barcelona, Mar. 18. General Felipe Acedo took over as civil governor of Barcelona today in succession to Senor Baeza. Algeria who was removed after the strike by 300,000 workers last Monday in protest against the rising cost of living.

General Rafael Hierro, newly appointed Inspector-General of the Spanish police, arrived here today from Madrid. It was understood that he would investigate the causes of the strike and report back to the Government.

Barcelona was almost back to normal and there were many foreign tourists in the city for the Easter holidays.

But police checks were still being made, particularly in the outlying industrial areas.

For the first time in weeks there was an abundance of meat at the markets today.

Observers said it appeared that the Government was trying to send better food supplies to the city.

A new chief of the labour unions for the Barcelona province, Senor Jose Sanz Catalan, also took over his post today.—Reuter.

## Lost Off Libya

London, Mar. 18. The 810-ton American-built Panamanian ship, *Syrenica I*, was reported to have sunk with the loss of some lives off the coast of Libya in the Mediterranean, Lloyds reported today.

Messages received here said she went down between El Daba and Mersa Hertruh and that cargo and bodies had been washed ashore. The messages, originating from Benghazi, were relayed by the Harbour Master at Heraklion, Crete.—Reuter.

## Politics Holding Up Turkey's Entry Into NATO

Washington, Mar. 18.

Some American leaders, particularly in the Air Force, are now leaning strongly toward supporting the admission of Turkey into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Whether the United States will support Turkey's renewed request to join the alliance at the next meeting of the North Atlantic Council will depend on how far the Air Force view is backed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, representing all branches of the Armed Forces, and whether certain diplomatic and political problems can be resolved.

Last year the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) did

not agree that Turkey should be admitted despite Turkey's request, but decided that both Greece and Turkey should be associated with the NATO planning for the defence of the Mediterranean.

Consultations between American military leaders and those of Greece and Turkey had taken place along these lines and recently the United States Secretary for Air, Mr Tom Finletter, visited Greece and Turkey and discussed the defence problems there.

The present position is that the American military leaders have a high regard both for the strength and efficiency of the reorganised Greek and Turkish armies and for the strategic importance of Greece and Turkey, the otherwise exposed eastern flank of the NATO defence line, against a possible Russian attack.

On the other hand, there is still considerable opposition, particularly in Army circles, to an extension of the United States' commitments and a desire not to have to use United States ground forces on the eastern flank.

There is also the problem of obtaining the approval of the Senate for any extension of the American commitments and the approval of all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance to the admission of Turkey.

Both Britain and France are committed in a separate alliance with Turkey but some of the smaller members of the North Atlantic Treaty are reported to be unwilling to see an extension of the area over which military aid from the United States must be spread.—Reuter.

## Death Fall As Bridge Snaps

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

A suspension bridge over the Ota River near Hiroshima City snapped under the weight of a truck and hurled the driver and his assistant to their deaths in the water 40 feet below.

The truck was carrying a load of lumber.—Reuter.

## Colonel's "Vision" Of The Future

Washington, Mar. 18.

Colonel Bernt Balchen, Air Force authority on Polar aviation, said today that it is very unlikely that United States bombers bound for Russian industrial centres would encounter opposition over the Arctic region except in the most southern part.

His statement indicated that so far as he knew Soviet Russia had made no effort to build up her military might in the extreme parts of the Arctic. Col. Balchen appeared on the National Broadcasting Company's television programme, "Battle Report."

"The likelihood of not encountering opposition on about two-thirds of the trip would give the crews a better opportunity to concentrate on navigation and flight problems," Col. Balchen said.

Col. Balchen said that for the most part of the trip, planes crossing the Polar regions would have no major problems, and would be on practically daily routine flights. The low temperatures would be no more severe than those at high altitudes elsewhere.

He said, "Our latest types of aircraft are well capable of performing these missions. In any future conflict, it is reasonable to assume that the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions might be areas from where some of the first and maybe decisive aerial attacks would be installed."—United Press.



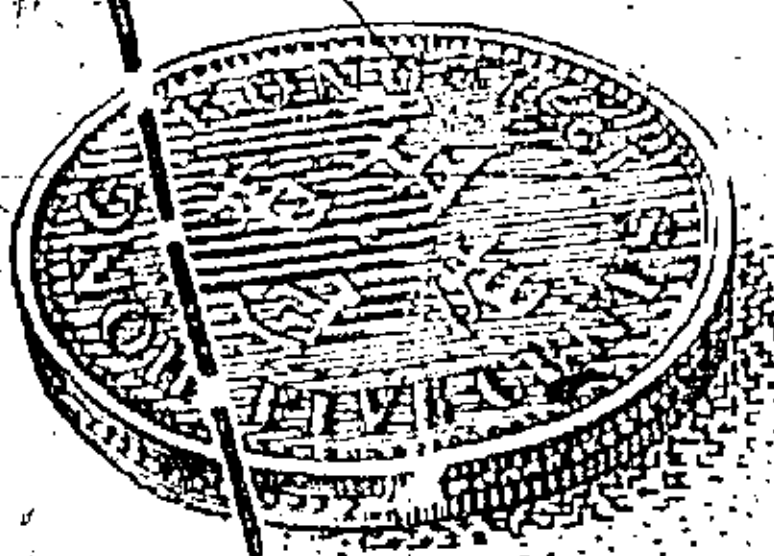
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# Daring Economic Experiment Starts In Europe Today

## THE SCHUMAN PLAN

Paris, Mar. 18.

Six Western European nations agreed today to pool their \$4,000,000,000 a year coal and steel resources in the most daring economic experiment ever launched on the Continent of Europe.

France, Western Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg produce nearly one-half of Western Europe's coal and nearly two-thirds of its steel.

## KASHMIRIS PROTEST MOVE IN UN

Srinagar, Kashmir, Mar. 18.  
Over 50 processions wound their way through the streets today to protest against the Anglo-American resolution on Kashmir now before the Security Council.

The demonstrators carried placards which read: "No foreign troops here," "No imperialistic intervention to decide our future."

The processions, organised by the Kashmir National Conference and labour organisations, ended in a meeting when speeches opposing the resolution were made.

The Kashmir National Conference is the main political body of the State. Its president is the Kashmir Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah.

The British and American draft-resolution submitted to the Security Council on Feb. 21 instructed the United Nations representative in Kashmir, after consultation with the Governments of India and Pakistan, to effect the demilitarisation of Jammu and Kashmir, to present to the Governments of India and Pakistan, detailed plans for a plebiscite, and to discuss with the two Governments the possibility that any forces required for facilitating demilitarisation and the holding of the plebiscite might be provided from member States of the United Nations or raised locally. —Reuter.

## N. Korean Claim

London, Mar. 18.

A North Korean communique reported the shooting down of 14 planes on Korea's west coast between Mar. 5 and 16, Moscow Radio said today.

The communique added that on all fronts "units of the People's Army and Chinese volunteers continued to wage fierce battles." —Reuter.

Representatives of these six countries will initial a treaty at the French Foreign Office at noon on Monday setting up machinery for a coal and steel pool under the Schuman Plan, first proposed by the French Foreign Minister, M. Robert Schuman, 10 months ago.

The agreement must still be approved by the governments of the six countries, signed by their Foreign Ministers and ratified by their Parliaments. Britain was asked to join but refused.

In brief, the plan proposes the creation of a common market for Western Europe's basic heavy industries and aims at tearing down tariff barriers, cartels and price-fixing which have impeded development in the past.

### INTERCHANGE OF WORKERS

It also envisages a time when the 1,500,000 coal and steel workers of Western Europe will be able to travel freely from one country to another to work wherever they are most needed.

The final draft treaty, to be initialled on Monday, provides firstly for the creation of a supranational high authority to administer the plan.

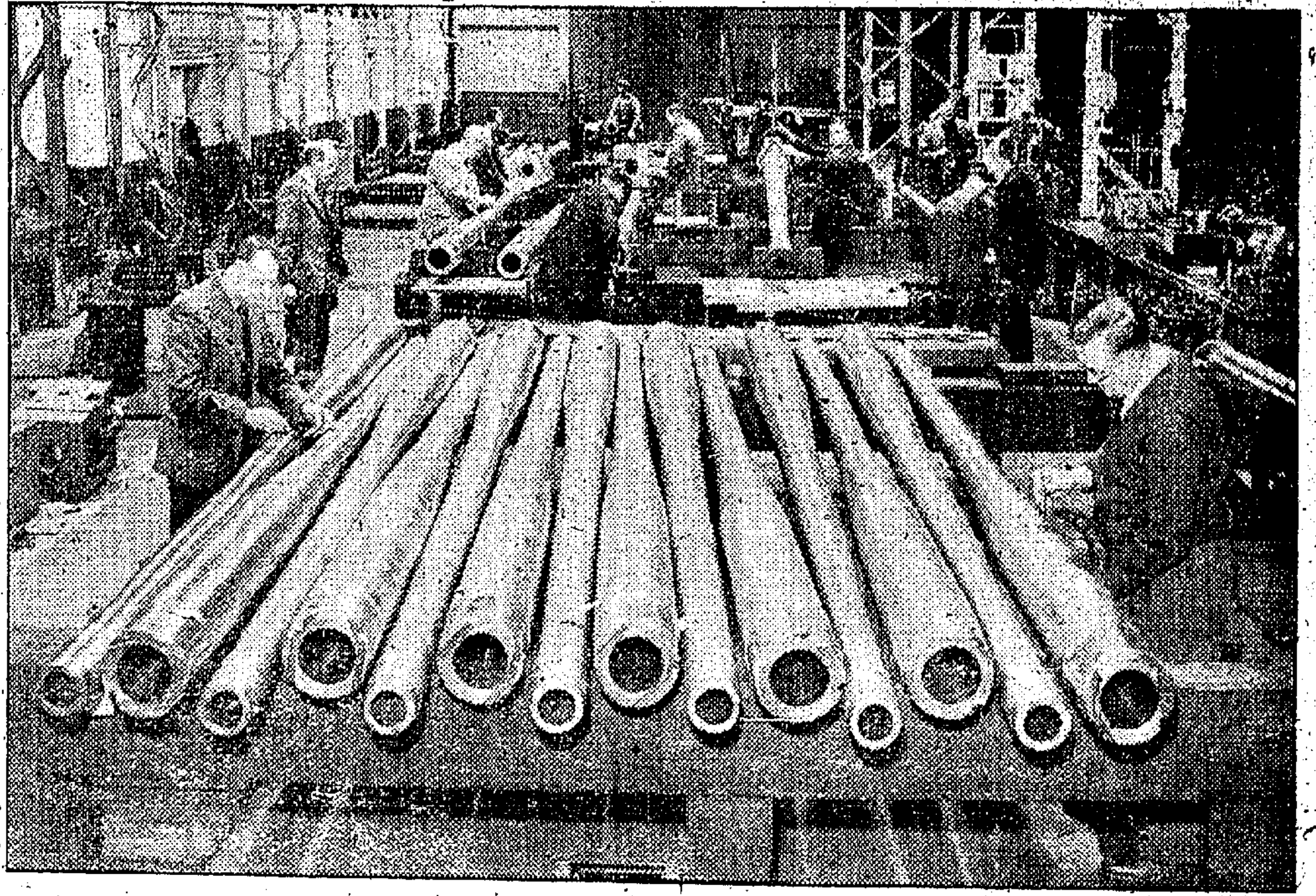
This high authority would be aided by a special council of representatives from each of the Schuman Plan countries and this Council would act as liaison between the six governments and the high authority and will be able to make recommendations to the authority. —United Press.

## Taxi Drivers Join Strike

Paris, Mar. 18.

The transport authorities today ordered 200 more Army trucks into service on emergency bus routes as union officials called on taxi drivers to join the transportation strike that has disrupted life in the French capital.

The military trucks will join more than 600 private buses and Army vehicles already pressed into service on 24 emergency bus lines. The move came as emergency transportation improved in the third day of the bus and underground workers' strike for a blanket wage increase of 6,000 francs a month. —United Press.



No, these are not giant cigarette-holders, though they look like it. They are actually gun barrels for the 20-pounder guns used in the Centurion tank, and are shown in the inspection department of one of Britain's biggest arms factories. —Central Press photo.

## Eight Million Men Under Arms In Russia, Red China

London, Mar. 18.

The War Office in London today issued details of the Chinese (People's Republic) and Russian armed forces, giving their overall strength as over eight million men.

According to these details, the Russian forces, including the Army, Navy, Air Force and troops of the M.V.D. (Ministry of Internal Affairs) and M.G.B. (Ministry of State Security), were over four million.

The Army itself had 2,800,000, including about 175 "line" divisions and artillery, anti-aircraft and other supporting formations.

The line strength, the War Office said, was the dominant factor of the Soviet Army.

Russian citizens began their military training at the age of 15 and during the conscription period, over twice as long as in the Western Armies, their training was much more intensive than in the West.

They had great quantities of simple, reliable weapons and equipment, very great numbers, indeed, of excellent tanks and artillery weapons in which they had been greatly helped by the handing over of lease-lend equipment during World War II.

Rations were poor, discipline harsh and officers had many privileges. Their pay compared with other ranks' rates was vastly higher than in the Western armies.

Political indoctrination was unceasing.

The Chinese Communist armed forces, the War Office

said, also totalled over four million. The regular army was about two and a half million men of this total.

The principle of the Chinese Communist plans was to avoid the enemy where he was strongest and instead to concentrate on his weakest point.

"To the Chinese army, whose history is almost entirely one of guerilla warfare, ground is unimportant."

Equipment was mostly Japanese, American or locally produced, but more and more Russian equipment was becoming available.

The conclusions drawn by the War Office were that the Chinese Communist army was well-trained and well-disciplined, with high morale and able by improvisations and frugality to make a little go a long way.

It had unlimited manpower at its disposal.

Its virtues were also the characteristics of the early history of the Kuomintang army, the War Office added. —Reuter.

## Rolling Out The Barrels

## MACBRIDE MOUNTS SOAPBOX

Washington, March 18.

The Irish External Affairs Minister, Mr. Sean MacBride, said today that Ireland will turn down a military alliance with the United States—or any other Western power as long as Britain continues to rule northern Ireland.

Mr. MacBride spoke in a nationwide radio broadcast that Ireland is more concerned about British "aggression" than the menace of Russia. He said, "There is no difference between Russia and Britain. So far as democracy is concerned they both are occupying powers."

The gaunt 47-year-old statesman stoutly defended Ireland's position regarding the defence of Europe during a flurry of question from newspapermen on the "Meet the Press" programme. He declared that it would be impossible for Ireland to mount any kind of defence so long as its people remain ununited.

It would be "inconceivable," he said, for Ireland to join a military alliance with a country committing aggression in its territory.

The Minister was asked if Ireland would grant the United States bases to help defend Europe. He said the "base question has not come up." So far the United States has not asked for any.

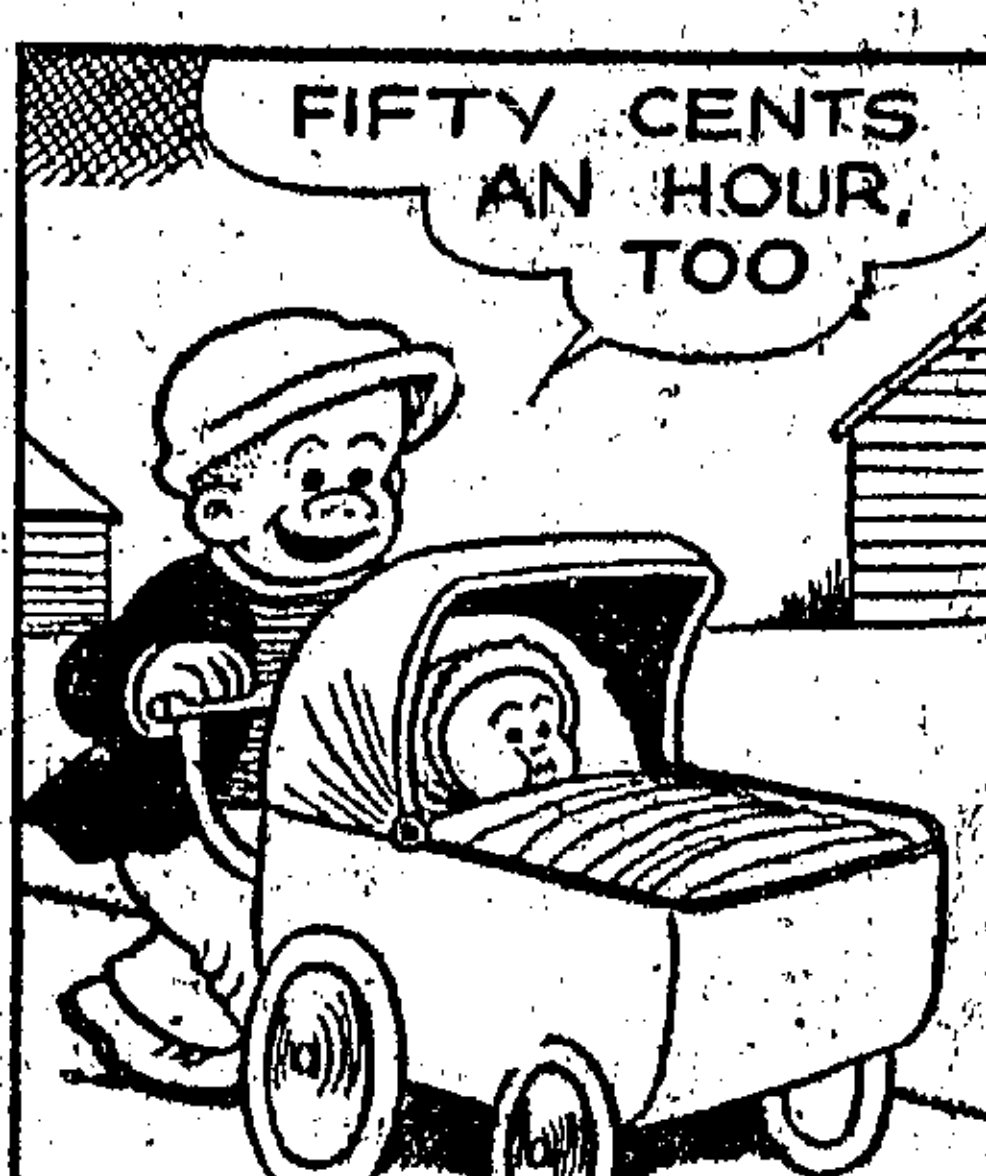
He indicated that it is not a more important fight for Ireland against Communism than against British "aggression."

The Minister conceded that Ireland continues to trade with Britain and said it would trade as "little as possible" with Russia. But he said this involved no inconsistency. —United Press.

## NANCY

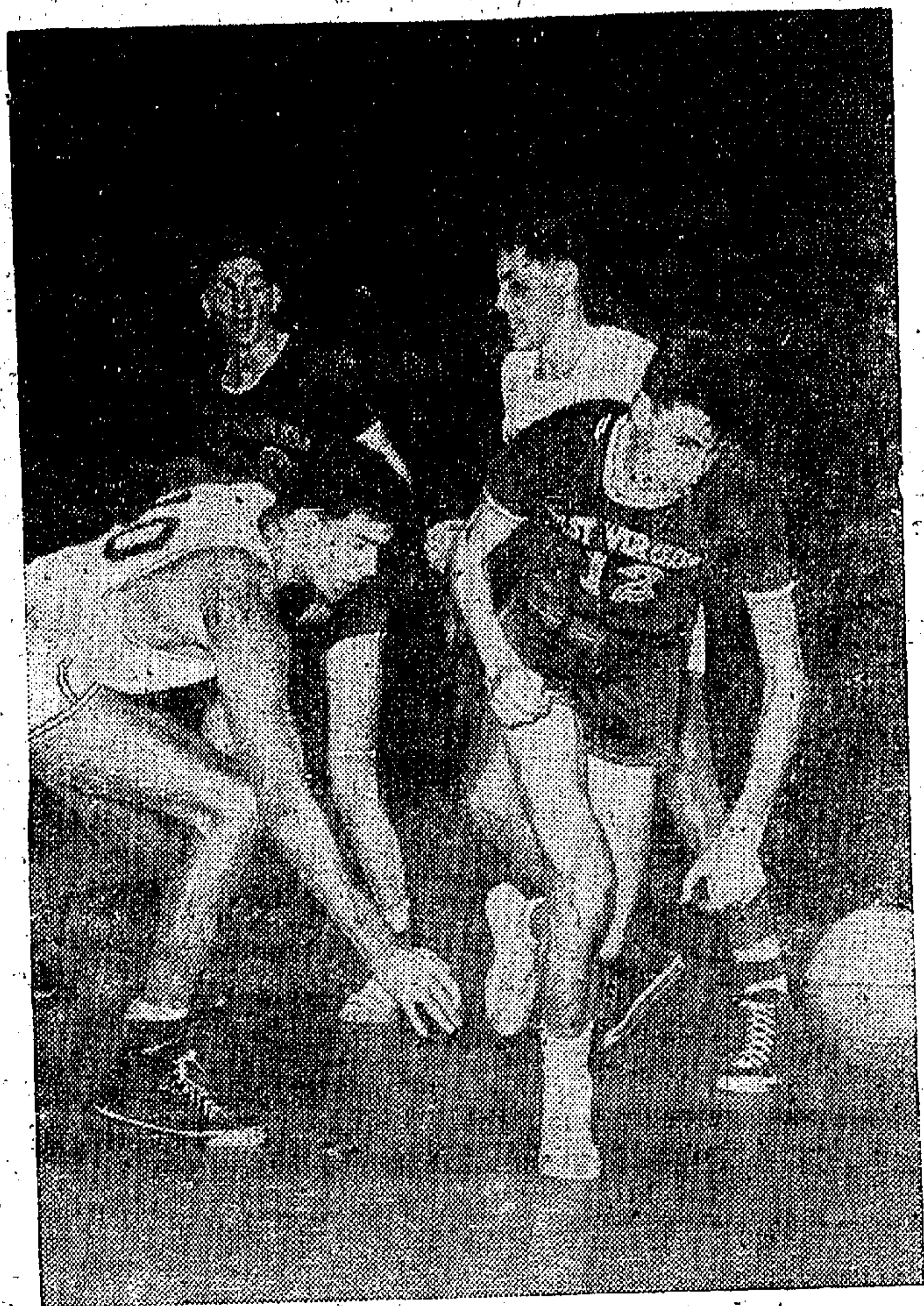
Oh, Baby!

By Ernie Bushmiller





## THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY



Mel Seeman (10), of New York University, and James Coalter (12) of West Virginia, race after a ball on the loose during a basketball game in New York. The boys were right in there doing their best, but NYU won, 76-54.

## A WOMAN ON THE SOCCER BOARD

By RAYMOND GLENDENNING

Kidderminster Harriers, Southern League club, are making soccer history. They have elected a woman to their Board of Directors, and have proudly written to the Football Association, thereby making sure the news is well circulated.

Small though this news item is, its repercussions could shake the soccer world.

Football has very many ardent women supporters—indeed my secretary is one—who make the turnstiles click every week.

In fact, quite a few husbands I know wouldn't dare go to a match without their wives. Yet women are never mentioned in the same breath as football generally, except it be for the help they give in the tea room.

Anyway, up to now the sacred portals leading to the Board Room have been tightly closed against them.

I certainly cannot see women penetrating into the inner councils of the Football League, but while the field of play is essentially a male domain—I hold no brief for the amazons who insist on making up women's teams—how long can we continue to plead that the management side is a man's business?

One of Eire's most famous clubs, Shamrock Rovers, is controlled by a member of the fair sex, but the verdict in the rarefied atmosphere surrounding the semi-final at Sheffield was "dead-against" such a state of affairs occurring over here.

## WHEN TO CHANGE

Now to the game itself. The Referees' Committee of the FA have settled the question of when a light-coloured or white ball shall be used.

It has been decided that the "man with the whistle" is fully entitled to have the ball changed if it is in any way defective. He does not have to wait for mutual agreement of the two captains.

The word "defective" now covers more than just faults of material. And why not? A dark

item is, its repercussions could shake the soccer world. Football has very many ardent women supporters—indeed my secretary is one—who make the turnstiles click every week.

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## Fine Weather For Christchurch Test

Christchurch, Mar. 18. Fine weather during the weekend continued for the second day of the first Test here between England and New Zealand.

There was a heavy dew during the night and bowlers may get some help early in the day.

On Saturday New Zealand scored 247 runs for three wickets in their first innings.—Reuter.

## 800,000 PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CUP FINAL

By IVAN SHARPE

Sir Stanley Rous, Secretary of the Football Association, tells me there will be eight applications for every ticket for this year's Cup Final, 800,000 in all.

"It is a fact," he says, "that I have had in recent years five applications from different people claiming to be the famous man on the white horse, of Wembley invasion-day, 1923."

This was the mounted policeman who stole the headlines by helping so conspicuously to persuade 30,000 spectators to get off the grass, or that portion of it required by the players.

In the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of tickets. This is it. This is ticket time...for semi-finals, and finals, and internationals.

## Farr-Bell Fight Eliminator For Championship?

London, Mar. 18. Mr Albert Davies, the boxing promoter of the Tommy Farr-Frank Bell fight at Porth on March 21, said that he was making application to the British Boxing Board of Control to have the contest recognised as the eliminator for the British Heavyweight Championship.

Mr Davies said that Farr was second in the ratings in January and that Bell had now moved from fifth to third place after his win over George Stiern at the end of February.

Mr Davies described Bell, who comes from Barnoldswick, Yorkshire, as one of the hardest hitting heavyweights in Britain.—Reuter.

## THOMAS v. PRUDEN

London, Mar. 18. Mr Jack Solomons, the London promoter, is planning to stage a fight between Eddie Thomas, the British, European and Empire Welterweight Champion, and Fitzie Pruden, of Canada, for the world boxing title which Sugar Ray Robinson is expected to vacate.

Pruden caused a surprise by beating Tony Janiro in New York on February 23.

Mr Solomons said that he would apply to the British Boxing Board of Control, the National Boxing Association of America and the New York State Athletic Commission for recognition of the fight.

If permission is granted, the fight will be held in Wales in the open air.—Reuter.

## FLYWEIGHT TITLE

London, Mar. 18. A claim is to be made through the Northern Area Council of the British Boxing Board of Control for a European Flyweight title fight between Teddy Gardner, of West Hartlepool, and Louis Skena, the French Champion.

Gardner outpointed Skena over 10 rounds in a non-title fight at Newcastle on February 19.—Reuter.

## PROTEST NOT UPHELD

London, Mar. 18. Mr Albert Davies, the Welsh boxing promoter, has been informed by the British Boxing Board of Control that his protest about the Board's action in turning down Stephan Olek, the Polish boxer, as an opponent for Tommy Farr will not be upheld.

The Board stated that they want Farr to meet a British heavyweight.—Reuter.

## AVALANCHE

I was in the avalanche of letters and telegrams and phone calls myself during the week, at the semi-final ground at Manchester. To the harassed staff I dare not speak. But a secretary who has been through it (Walter Crickmer of Manchester United) happened in.

"You eat, drink and sleep tickets, if you eat, drink and sleep at all. We had 39,000 letters, each asking for two or three of the 12,500 tickets for the 1948 final," he said, and went on to tell me all about the army of applicants.

Here's my classification:

**The beat-the-gun brigade:** These apply too soon, enclose incorrect payment, and then send second, third or fourth letters with more money, asking that they shall be attached to the first...somewhere among the 39,000.

**Our boys:** Amid the snow-storm, schoolboys chip in with requests for autographs and programmes, and anxious inquires about delayed replies.

**The loyal touch:** Supporters forward cuttings, souvenirs, parcels of newspapers, and programmes, some 6lb. in weight, to prove long association with the club—followed by letters, "Please return souvenirs"...all mixed up in the 39,000.

**Heart-throb:** "Relations are strained with my wife. She will sink all differences if I can bring her to the match..."

**The reward:** "My boy is sitting for an examination, and I have promised to take him to Wembley if he passes..."

**"Can't-miss-me":** Applications by craftsmen or draughtsmen, 4ft. long and 3ft. wide, all beautifully designed, with the request for tickets written in verse...sticking out of the 39,000.

**Big-money approach:** One letter arrived (unregistered) containing 20 £5 notes. The tickets were needed for a party, of how many was not stated. The money was returned.

**Temptation:** Packages by the dozen of Aytons, and cigars, and more than one case of champagne. They all had to go back. "I could have been a rich man," said Mr Crickmer.

At the end of an 18 hours' stretch, the secretary will carry on from midnight till 4 a.m. signing, signing, signing his name—endorsing cheques.

I said: "After all that, it must be terrible to lose the Cup Final."

"You get hardened to it," he replied. "It's all in the game."

But if all takes toll. To the grief of everyone in football, Fred Everiss, secretary of West Bromwich Albion for fifty years, has just passed on. Age: 68. The mystery to the Soccer world was how he retained his everlasting

smile. No more sincere or kindly man has ever graced a game.

## HARD WATCHING

For George Kay, manager of Liverpool, the strain of last year's Cup Final was followed by a relapse in health and he has had to retire. He is one of the men who have found watching harder than playing.

Another is Stanley Cullis, manager of the Wolves, who says: "I find it twice as trying. The nerve strain is greater. I feel more exhausted now after a match than ever I did."

Charles Roberts, famous centre-half of Manchester United, went through Cup-winning and League Championship seasons and various internationals. As player, he was the big shot and captain. Yet, when he came to manage Oldham Athletic, I saw him walking up and down behind the stand. Couldn't watch the play.

The game with Peter McWilliam, wonderful Scottish international half-back of Newcastle United, who later managed Tottenham Hotspur and Middlesbrough. He retired, "You are never free of it," he said. In and out of home, at the match, the office, the theatre, you can't escape football." So he quit. "Gone fishing."

## SPAIN WILL WAIT

Now Liverpool will have as manager Don Welsh, from Brighton and Hove Albion, star, student and gentleman. I saw Don make his debut for England in 1938 at the magnificent Olympic Stadium in Berlin. He roamed surprisingly, but always with success. Just that I wish him at Liverpool.

There are no bouquets for Spain, who have only just informed the FA that they must cancel the international at Madrid in May because they are short of dates for cup-ties. Hm.

Some countries won't play if they are below-strength. Some countries, when they beat England, as Spain did in the World Cup, are apt to sit on the prize as long as possible.

I don't say this of Spain, but I do say it will be a long time before they get another chance to play England.

## THE GAMBOLS





# FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

## PERSIAN PARLIAMENT IS CUTTING OFF ITS NOSE TO SPITE ITS FACE

(Our Own Correspondent)

London, Mar. 18.

There is every reason to believe that responsible opinion in Persia realises that if the threat to nationalise the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company is carried out it will leave a vacuum in the Persian economy that no amount of nationalist zeal can hope to fill. The difficulty is to convince the nationalists of that.

The company has what the country hasn't — capital and "know-how," without which an oil industry cannot be run. No doubt technical and financial assistance could be obtained from some other foreign power but even if the Persian nationalists were able to reconcile this with their fanatical xenophobia they would still have enormous problems to face.

The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company runs one of the largest tanker fleets in the world but this would not be included in the nationalisation "prize." The Persians would therefore be left with the oil but no means of transporting or marketing it. They haven't even roads or railways to enable them to sell oil to Russia or Pakistan.

Moreover the Persian Government would cease to receive royalties from the company and the bulk of their national revenue would automatically disappear along with any hopes they have of carrying out social reforms.

Set against these very real disadvantages the offers made by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company seem very generous. They concluded an agreement with the late Prime Minister, General Razmara, providing for increased royalties but it was not ratified. They have now put forward proposals for a 50-50 sharing of profits with the Persian Government but so far the Persians have not reacted.

Meanwhile, although the agreements for increased royalty payments was never ratified by the Persian Parliament the company has agreed to increase its royalty payments in 1951 considerably in excess of those due under the original agreement in 1933.

The extent to which the Persian Parliament seem prepared to cut off their nose to spite their face can be judged from the fact that the agreement they refused to ratify made provision for royalty payments in 1948 and 1949 of £18,667,786 and £22,890,261 compared with corresponding payments under the terms of the original agreement of £9,172,245 and £13,489,271. These and other equally generous offers were turned down by the Majlis.

### FALSE ARGUMENT

It has been said that the British Government, which has carried out many nationalisation projects on its own account, is in no position to object when an industry in which it has a vital interest is nationalised by the country on whose soil it stands. That argument has no relation to the present case.

The British Government has pointed out in a note to Persia that under the terms of its agreement the company's operation cannot be terminated by an act such as "nationalisation."

Moreover, the more extreme elements in Persia are now demanding that the British be "thrown into the sea" and the oil industry seized without indemnifying Britain.

This latter threat may not make much difference to the situation because not many of the company's 40,000 shareholders are naive enough to believe that their shares will be bought by the Persian Government as shares in British nationalised industries were bought by the British Government.

### INFLATION MENACE

Inflation is now gathering momentum at such a rate that it can no longer be ignored. "The Economist," one of the soberest of the week-end reviews, says

today that in the next twelve months the British people will experience a fall in value of their money such as they have rarely if ever known before.

There are two ways of dealing with an inflationary problem, as "The Economist" points out. The first, and one we have been trying for the past ten years, is to suppress it by imposing controls, rationing, raw material allocation and all other means of curbing excess spending power with which we have become so familiar in this country.

The danger of this method, however, is that it must go on for ever—or invite even worse inflation when controls are eventually dropped. In any event, to attempt further suppression now would merely be to invite more trouble, since the mainstay of wartime controls—the voluntary wage freeze—has ended.

The second method of dealing with inflation is to let it run its course. If this method were adopted prices would continue to soar until they reached a point where they would level off. But this "once for all" method of dealing with inflation would be to use "The Economist's" term, "socially corrosive."

### HARD CHOICE

This is a difficult choice to have to make. There is no doubt that politicians will favour the first method or an attempt to combine the two.

But "The Economist" takes the opposite view. It says the right policy is to "let the inflation that is already in the blood stream work its way out in rising prices (with all the hardships and difficulties that that involves) but to resolve that there should be no fresh crop in 1952 so that prices will before too long reach a plateau and level off."

It admits, however, that in practice neither half of this prescription can be filled completely. The aim should be, however, to get rid of "all artificialities and distortions that a decade of suppressing inflation has produced."

In principle prices should be allowed to find their own level and "there should be a deter-

mined effort, by using all the old-fashioned remedies — by monetary policy, by restriction of credit and public retrenchment—to cure inflation in the only way it can be cured—that is by pulling the total of demand down until it is no greater than the available supply."

### STOCK EXCHANGE

The significance of the Northern Rhodesian loan failure is that it puts an end, temporarily at least, to any hope of raising further medium-dated Government loans at three and a half per cent.

The loan reached the market at a particularly unfortunate time. On Wednesday, the day before the lists opened, the gilt-edged market experienced its biggest decline for some time. This was due to a combination of factors. The present account closes on Budget Day and this does not make for strong nerves. Moreover there has been a decline in Wall Street and this has had its effect in London.

In its present overloaded state any new issue on the gilt-edged market was bound to have an adverse effect on prices but even a few days ago the most critical observer was not prepared to say more than that the Northern Rhodesian terms were "rather close to the knuckle." In the event, 94 per cent of the loan was left with the underwriters. The Northern Rhodesian issue was of £5,500,000 of three and a half per cent loan stock dated 1970-72 at a price of 99.

These terms suggest that the authorities had taken care not to make the same mistake that caused 43 per cent of the recent Southern Rhodesian Loan to be left with the underwriters. But, although the terms of the latest loan compared favourably with those of the Southern Rhodesian Loan, they were not sufficiently generous to draw a market which is still trying to digest the overdose of nationalised steel stock.

The Northern Rhodesian failure caused a further decline in the gilt-edged market on Friday, and dealings in the new stock opened at two discount. After fluctuating between 2-5/8 and 1-5/8, with a considerable turnover, the new scrip finished back at two discount. The cheapness of the new stock caused a certain amount of switching and this was reflected in a lowering in the price of other Colonial stocks which lost up to a quarter.

## JACK DAVIES Show Talking Olivier As A Talent Scout

London.

Sir Laurence Olivier, it would seem, is just as good a talent scout as he is an actor.

When he was touring Australia two years ago he discovered a young actor named Peter Finch, put him under contract and gave him a leading part in the West End stage production of "Daphne Laureola."

Since then he has appeared in two films, "Eureka Stockade" and "Train of Events."

It was obvious to those who saw him in these productions that he would go a long way if he got the right break.

He hasn't had to wait long. This week actor Finch gets two big breaks. He has taken over Dirk Bogarde's part in "Point of Departure" at the Duke of York's Theatre—Dirk has had to leave the cast owing to illness.

Then he will start work as the Sheriff of Nottingham, one of the most important roles in Walt Disney's production of "Robin Hood."

Is Finch elated at his good fortune? "I haven't had time to be," he says. "All I can think about is my lines for the play. There are a great many of them and I'm a slow learner."

The Prince of Wales Theatre is nowhere near large enough to hold all the people who will want to see Bob Hope during his season there. So Robert is going to play the Palladium, too. He'll give two Sunday concerts there — on April 29 and May 6.

On the same bill will be Petula Clark. She has a busy evening before her on the first occasion. For immediately she has completed her act she will be rushed from the theatre to the Playhouse, where she'll take part in the final edition of "Variety Bandbox."

This last performance of one of radio's most successful shows will feature many of the artists who became stars as a result of appearing in the programme. Pet is one of the veterans of the show. She first appeared in it when she was 10. She's 18 now.

I reported recently that Aubrey Baring and Maxwell Setton were looking for a girl to play opposite Van Heflin in "Sunset at Morning."

Now, with the production due to start in two weeks' time, they are also looking for an English actor to play Van Heflin's role. For at the last moment their negotiations with him have fallen through and he is not to come here after all.

Meanwhile, I find myself snowed under with applications from glamorous young women who want to be in the film. All have been forwarded to the producers.

Problem for John Boulting, producer of "The Magic Box" — how to bill the many guest stars appearing in the picture?

If he lists them in what he considers their order of face he will no doubt be torn to pieces by their agents. Only solution is to bill them alphabetically. But if he does this he will still find himself in an awkward position.

For at the top of the list will be Richard Attenborough. And Richard Attenborough is under contract to John and his brother Roy.

Margaretha Krook was an air hostess with a Swedish air line. But she wanted to be an actress. So she gave up planes for plays and enrolled at Stockholm's School of Dramatic Art, whose graduates include Garbo and Ingrid Bergman.

Margaretha worked hard. Now she has her first film role. She has been signed by Terence Young to appear in "Valley of the Eagles." Perfect casting, too. She's playing an air hostess.

### NOTED AT RANDOM

Whatever you hear about Wilfred Pickles starring in "The Good Companions" is news to the producing company, Associated British. They haven't had a go at him yet. After six months away from the theatre, following a car crash, Thora Hird goes back to work at the Embassy in Michael Clayton Hutton's new play, "The Happy Family," on March 20, Reginald Purdell co-stars.

Although Patricia Morison was a film star in Hollywood a few years ago, they gave her someone else's voice when she sang in "Silver Skates." They didn't know she could sing. They do now.

### STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: South. Game all.

N. J 9 7  
K J 8 5 3  
A 7 4  
2

W. A 8 5 2  
K 10 6  
9 8 6 3 2  
Q 8 5 7 4

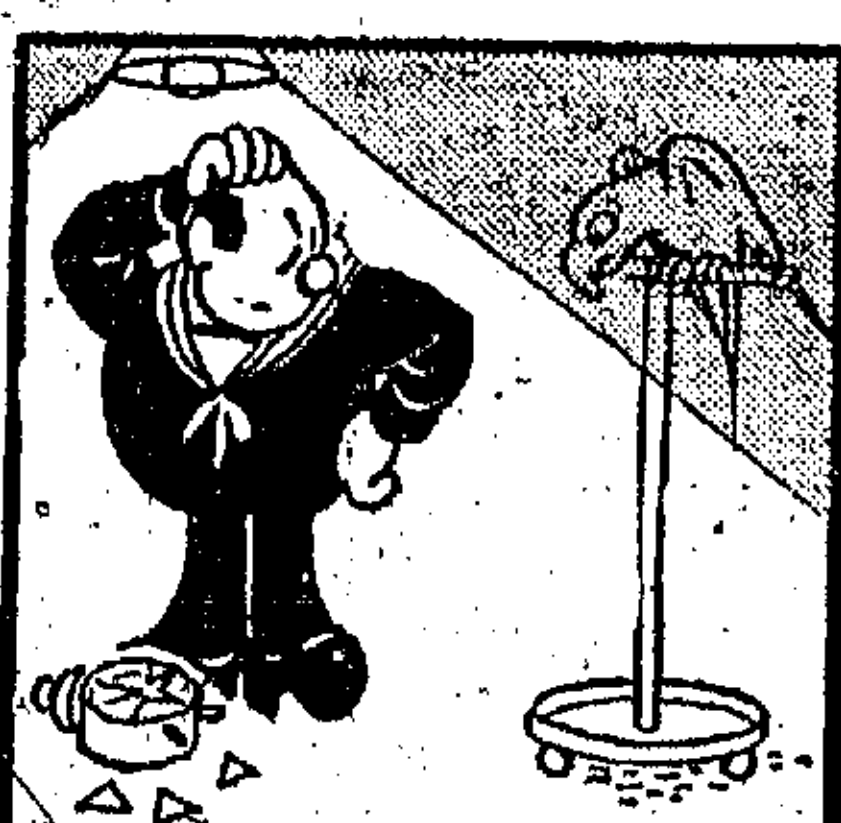
S. 4 3  
10  
Q 10 5  
A K J 10 9 6 3

An example of the difficulties facing the opposition after an opening Three-bid. South bid Three Clubs, West and North passed, and East was on the spot. It will be seen that if the North and West hands are interchanged, Five Hearts is a lay-down. East therefore bid Three Hearts which was doubled by North.

South led ♠K and switched to ♠A. East won in his own hand with ♠K and returned ♠6 to dummy's ♠A. He then finessed ♠Q and noted the fall of South's ♠10. To the next trick ♠7 was led, South winning and returning ♠5. North and East now fought out the end-play, East eventually making two Spades, one Diamond and four Hearts, conceding a penalty of 500. There is no game for North-South.

London Express Service.

## ABLE SEAMAN



By Holt



# COMMUNISTS PULL SLOWLY - OUT

*Vital Chunchon, 8 Miles South of Parallel, Appears Deserted*

## Screening Forces Fight Hard To Blunt Allied Thrust

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

The Chinese Communist and North Korean armies to-night appeared to be pulling out of South Korea as United Nations forces advanced slowly along a 150-mile front.

Chunchon, the biggest town on the central front which has been used by the Communists to funnel troops and supplies to the battlefield, seemed deserted today.

The United Nations Army had expected the biggest battle of its advance to the Parallel in taking Chunchon, which is only eight miles below the old south Korean border.

Earlier reports said that Communist screening forces fought fiercely to blunt an Allied thrust towards Chunchon.

## WEST GETS BEHIND HAND

Washington, Mar. 18.

Western plans to take legal steps ending World War II hostilities with Western Germany are far behind schedule. The big trouble centres on jockeying agreement between East and West over Germany's future.

The Western Germans are not in any hurry to make the action possible at the moment. The United States, Britain and France agreed on September 19 to "terminate the state of war with Germany" at an early date. The other Western powers underwrote the Big Three plans.

A survey disclosed today, however, that so far only India and a handful of smaller countries outside Western Europe have taken final measures to repair relations with Western Germany—the Western "gate-taker" government for all Germany.

Officials said the West German government has been slow to approve the necessary legal action and the Western powers have hit snags in the necessary legal procedures that have to be threshed out.

The Netherlands may be the first Western country ready to end the state of war. Britain can take the necessary action quickly while the United States requires approval by Congress, which declared war. London, however, is understood to be awaiting simultaneous action by the Big Three in line with the September 19 agreement. If the Big Three can move together to end hostilities, the action would place a strong propaganda weapon in their hands and the West would remove a "stigma" from the Germans whose favour is being sought.—United Press.

## Train Stalled In Snowdrift 48 Hours

Calgary, Alberta, Mar. 18.

Thirty-eight passengers were still marooned today in a Canadian National Railways' passenger train, which has been stalled in snowdrifts in an open area 200 miles north-east of here since early on Friday.

Supplies on the train were reported to be running low. At least five persons are dead because of the fierce two-day blizzard that swept through Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Three elderly persons froze to death because of the intense cold. Twenty others are missing, 10 of them members of a search party that went in search of a trapped farmer.

Roads and railway lines are completely covered by snow in the Western Canadian plains. Communications were disrupted by the storm and electric power lines were knocked down.—Reuter.

Greek and American forces edging forward north and north-west of Hongchun met stubborn resistance from the surrounding ridges and hilltops, where Communists, battling the advancing troops with artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire, had to be dug out at the point of the bayonet.

The Greek battalion was reported to have engaged in some of the bloodiest fighting of the whole Korean war during fierce hand-to-hand clashes with Communists west of the town.

They fixed bayonets, leaped out of their foxholes and charged, throwing back four fierce but small "Banzai" counter-attacks in this way.

The Communists, who were cut down by Greek small arms fire as they fled, lost many killed and 12 prisoners and an estimated 600 were wounded.

Two Communist planes bombed and strafed their own troops in error in this sector last night. Another dropped flares and lit the battlefield for Communist field guns to shell American positions.

In the west, South Korean troops fanning out north and west of Seoul clashed with small Communist groups blocking the main north-south road from Seoul to Pungamni, scattering them with machine-gun and mortar fire.

American tank and infantry task forces probing forward west of the Pukhan River struck mine-fields, but the 30-mile stretch of forests and hills to the east was completely deserted.

### NO HINDRANCE

American patrols ranged the hills north of their main line without hindrance.

Allied infantry on the east central front swept forward today from recaptured Pungamni, 18 miles south of the Parallel. Communists from dug-in positions on the hills west, north-west and northeast of their former supply centre maintained a constant, embarrassing fire throughout the night.

South Korean troops along the east coast kept up their slow, unopposed advance north and east of Kangnung.

In the recaptured South Korean capital of Seoul, United Nations' engineers started repairing essential services. United Nations supplies of rice for the hungry townspeople began to arrive as long lines of refugees filtered back to the capital.—Reuter.

## FRANCE SHORT OF MONEY

Lake Success, Mar. 18.

The French Government has told the United Nations that it cannot afford to be host to the Sixth General Assembly unless the United Nations shares "substantially" in the cost.

M. Francis Lacoste, acting French United Nations' delegate, wrote to Mr Trygve Lie, the Secretary-General, saying, "The French Government is obliged, owing to the exceptionally heavy outside financial obliga-

## ACUTE TENSION IN TEHERAN

(Continued from Page 4)

Secretary, Mr Herbert Morrison, had received an appeal from oil interests in Britain to fly troops to Iraq as a warning to the Persian authorities against the nationalisation proposal.

The spokesman said that no appeal of this kind had been received.—Reuter.

### "BRITISH THREATS"

Baghdad, Mar. 18.

Alyaqdah, the Istiqlal Party (Nationalist) organ, today spoke of the "British threats" over the nationalisation of the oil industry in Persia.

It said: "British propaganda threats to Iran to make her keep international contracts and to present the question of nationalising the oil industry to the International Court of Justice, will be of no avail and we are sure that Britain will in the end accept a fait accompli."

While congratulating Iran on her "remarkable victory," the newspaper asks whether other Middle East nations will take a lesson from the step.

The Alwagat Albaghdadiyah, an independent (leftist) daily, wrote: "Those who approved the decision taken in Teheran over the nationalisation of the oil industry are real and true democrats who believe in the rights of nations to decide the fate of their natural resources and use them according to their best interests."—Reuter.

### SOVIET BLAMES U.S.

Moscow, Mar. 18.

The first Soviet comment on the assassination of the Persian Prime Minister, Ali Razmara, alleged that "the hands of American agents in Persia" were involved.

They were acting to establish United States overlordship in Persian affairs, Prayda said.

The paper disclaimed any interest on the part of the Soviet Union—or of Britain—in having Razmara removed.—Reuter.

### Iraq Oil Output

Baghdad, Mar. 18.

Oil production by the Iraq Petroleum Company in the Kirkuk Fields last year was more than double the output in 1948—6,580,000 tons, it was officially announced here today.

In 1949, the production figure was 3,671,000 tons.—Reuter.

tions imposed upon it at the present time, to rely on the co-operation and understanding of the Organisation in order that the costs to be borne by it may be lightened substantially."—Reuter.



WHAT HAVE WE HERE?—A Korean youngster, obviously connected with the UN forces, is checking the papers of other Korean children. Almost indistinguishable from regular Military Police, except for his size, this lad attached himself to a U.S. MP battalion three months ago.

## SPANISH BID FOR U.S. ARMS AID

Washington, Mar. 18.

Spain has offered to send troops for the defence of Western Europe if American weapons are provided, usually reliable sources said here today.

The assurance had been given to the American Ambassador in Madrid, Mr Stanton Griffiths, by the Spanish Foreign Office.

Mr Griffiths sounded out the Franco Government soon after he arrived in Spain earlier this month, they said. The Spanish reply made the following points:

1.—Under the present conditions, Spain could not spare any Spanish troops beyond the Pyrenees Mountains to help to defend Western Europe. Spain's army was reported to be badly in need of modern weapons and parts.

2.—If the United States sent military supplies to Spain, Spain would be willing to contribute to West European defence even by moving troops beyond the Pyrenees if desired.

The officials who disclosed this stressed that the talks were strictly exploratory and that no commitments had been made on either side. They said this precluded any formal announcement.—Reuter.

## Protest Against Living Costs

Casablanca, Mar. 18.

Two thousand Moroccans demonstrated here today against the soaring cost of living in the French Protectorate. The procession was orderly and no political slogans were carried, although members of the extreme nationalist Istiqlal were present.

Road workers formed a substantial part of the demonstra-

## Shocked Into Recovery

Tokyo, Mar. 18.

Kyohei Nakamura, a 23-year-old factory worker in Matsuyama, claimed yesterday that the police gave him back his power of speech after he had lost it.

He lost the ability to talk a week ago when his clothing got caught in a machine and almost tore off his arm. The police stopped him for questioning when they found him aimlessly walking the streets. When questions went unanswered he was taken to prison.

Frightened by the situation, Nakamura finally was able to yell "Help" and recovered his voice.—Reuter.

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